

MOVIES AND LECTURES

SATURDAY MOVIES in December will be "Animals of the Seashore" December 1, "The Philippines" December 8, "Man's Conquest of the Air" December 15, "Palestine and the Near East" December 22, and "Birds at Home" December 29. These programs begin at 10:30 Saturday mornings and last till noon.

"Volcanoes in Action" is the subject of Harold Stein's illustrated talks on Saturdays and Sundays throughout December. These feature dramatic movies of the eruption of Mauna Loa and are scheduled for 2:00 P. M. and 3:30 P. M. Saturdays and for 12:30 P. M., 2:00 P. M. and 3:30 P. M. Sundays.

Admission to these programs is 40 cents for adults, 20 cents for students, and half price for members.

ACADEMY WINS AWARD FOR "SCIENCE IN ACTION"

NATIONAL RECOGNITION for "Science in Action" came to the Academy last month when this television program won an Outstanding Achievement Award in the annual contest of the American Public Relations Association. The award was made to the Academy "in recognition of accomplishments in the use of television as an extension of its science education function." Benjamin Draper, Executive Producer of the program, received the award in behalf of the Academy at the awards dinner in Philadelphia the evening of November 15. The presentation was made jointly by Hon. Harold E. Stassen, President of the University of Pennsylvania, and Robert Ramspeck, Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission.

RAREST TOADS AT AQUARIUM

THREE BLACK TOADS of a species which "has perhaps the most restricted range and fewest living representatives of any known amphibian" are on display in Steinhart Aquarium. The quotation is from Dr. George S. Myers, of Stanford University, who described the species, *Bufo exsul*. Dr. and Mrs. Edward L. Kessel collected the live, rare toads in Deep Springs Valley, Inyo County, California. This unusual valley is in desert country and has no water outlet, and the little black toads have apparently been isolated since the late Pleistocene. Dr. Carl L. Hubbs, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, collected the first specimen in 1934 when he visited the area at the suggestion of Dr. G. F. Ferris, of Stanford. We call attention to these rarest of known amphibians because so many of our Academy members figure in the story. Dr. Hubbs and Dr. Myers are Fellows of the Academy. Dr. Ferris is a Fellow and Research Associate. Dr. Kessel is Associate Curator of Entomology in the Academy, as well as a professor of biology at the University of San Francisco, and Mrs. Kessel is assistant in the Department of Birds and Mammals.

JANUARY LECTURE

LEONARD HALL will present films in color on the subject "Our National Parks" for the Academy's monthly meeting, January 31, at 8 P. M.

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December Announcement

THE REGULAR DECEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Morrison Auditorium in the Academy's Hall of Science, Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday, December 5, at 8 o'clock. Alfred G. Etter will present movies in natural color on

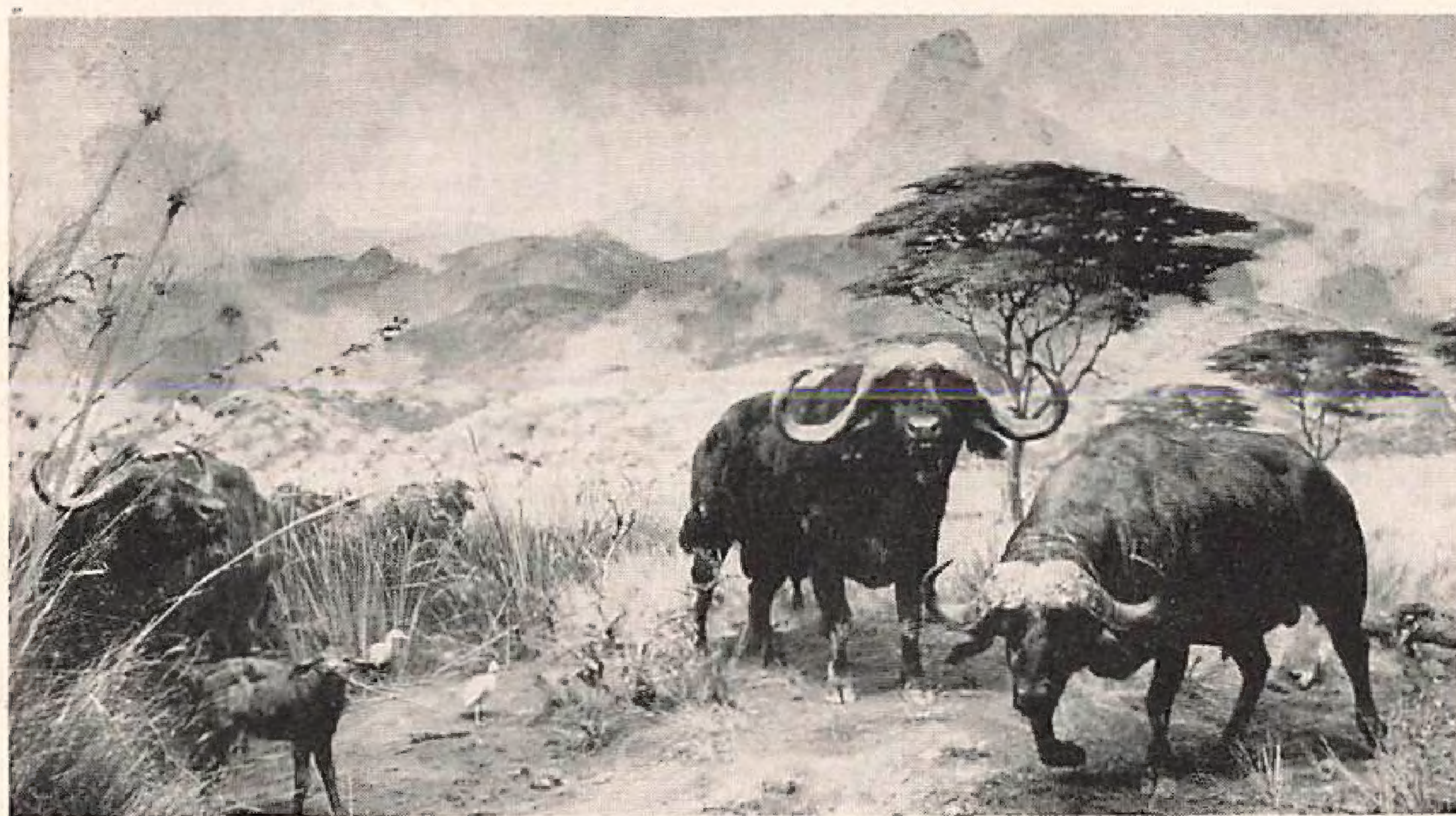
OZARK IDYLL

In the foothills of the Missouri Ozarks, Dr. Etter discovered "Wildwood," a mansion nearly 100 years old surrounded by beautiful woodland. Here the crops were reaped almost as they were when "Wildwood" was young. In magnificent color film, a year-round story of deep pastoral charm is told. The caretaker carries on his summer work—baling hay, "ringing" hogs, feeding steers and milking cows that are daily driven to pasture. The coloring changes with the seasons, from green summer to brilliant autumn, to stark winter and to gaily flowered spring. Throughout this exquisite film, with its Currier and Ives quaintness, the relations of living animals and plants of the woodland and farm tell of the drama that fills the lives of all wild creatures. The film is poetic, but beyond its beauty and simplicity, it tells a wonder-filled story of the lives of animals in a woodland community. No one, viewing this film, can ever again look at a grove of trees without feeling the throbbing pulse of wild things that live in our fields and forests.

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THE WATER BUFFALO HABITAT GROUP OF THE NEW ADDITION TO AFRICAN HALL

CAREFUL PLANNING and months of work by artists and craftsmen go into the life-like habitat groups. (Top) Toshio Asaeda, Assistant Preparator, and Cecil Tose, Preparator of Exhibits, are shown at work on the buffalo group. (Bottom) The finished group.

OPENING OF ADDITION TO AFRICAN HALL

THE NEW ADDITION to Simson African Hall will be open to the public on Saturday, December 1. The public may then see the three habitat groups of large African mammals and other displays which our Department of Exhibits has completed under the direction of Dr. Robert C. Miller.

Actually these exhibits have been 20 years in the making, for the specimens and the field notes and sketches date from the Leslie Simson expedition of 1930.

The new habitat groups are of water buffalo on the slopes of Mt. Kenya, of bongo in the upper rain forest of Kenya, and of greater kudu in the brush country of Tanganyika. The animal hides have been in the Academy's cold room since Mr. Simson brought them from Africa. The expedition field notes and sketches made by the late Frank Tose, who headed the Academy's Department of Exhibits during the building of Simson African Hall, were kept and served as guides in designing the new exhibits.

Cecil Tose, Preparator of Exhibits, has used his father's notes in carrying on the work of designing the groups, of modeling the animals and completing the taxidermy. Mr. Tose was assisted by Toshio Asaeda and Charles Dornbach. Miss Velma Harris made most of the plants in the foreground of the groups.

MEMBERS' PREVIEW NOVEMBER 30

MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY, their families and friends, are invited to attend a private showing of the new addition to African Hall on Friday evening, November 30, from 7:00 to 9:00 o'clock.

Belmore Browne, of Ross, California, painted the background of the buffalo group with rugged Mt. Kenya on the skyline.

Toshio Asaeda, of San Francisco, painted the bongo group background of bamboo.

Ray Strong, of Mill Valley, was the artist who did the Tanganyika background—so like a California landscape—for the greater kudu group.

As we inspect the new exhibits and notice their remarkable realism, we can appreciate the statement of Mr. Tose that "the art that is required for a museum habitat group is different from that of other art forms. The painting, sculpture, taxidermy, plastics work must all unite in giving an exact appearance of reality."

A special exhibit in the African Hall addition shows the step-by-step process of creating a habitat group.

At the entrance to the Lovell White Memorial Hall are two smaller exhibits: one of spears and other African artifacts, the other showing the diversity of African mammals.

Two additional large habitat groups are still in process, a desert group and a bird group.

Dr. Miller reports that Academy trustee Dean Witter has obtained the necessary African birds for the new group, including a Kori bustard and a saddle-bill stork.